

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Original) A nestable container having four sidewalls flared upwardly and outwardly from a common bottom with each sidewall connected to adjacent sidewalls by an inwardly fluted web defining thumb and finger gripping corners at the edges of said sidewalls.
2. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 1, wherein an upper end of each fluted web has an upper edge that is continuous with upper edges of the adjacent sidewalls and defines a continuous edge for engagement with a lid.
3. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 2, wherein the nestable container is adapted to nest with a second nestable container having an upper edge shaped substantially similar to the upper edge of the nestable container, the second nestable container defining an internal volume different than that of the nestable container.
4. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 3, wherein the nestable container and the second nestable container have internal volumes selected from a group consisting of: 2 quart, 1 quart, and 1 pint.
5. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 3, in combination with the lid, the lid adapted to fit both the nestable container and the second nestable container.
6. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 4, wherein the sidewalls are arranged essentially at 90° to each adjacent sidewall.
7. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 1, wherein an open end of the nestable container is defined by an upper edge adapted to mate with a lid, the upper edge being bowed outwardly at all points.

8. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 7, in combination with the lid.
9. (Original) A combination as set forth in claim 8, wherein the lid is made of a soft plastic material and is adapted to stretch around the upper edge of the container for mating with the container.
10. (Original) A combination as set forth in claim 9, wherein the lid and the upper edge are defined by a substantially 10 inch radius along points adjacent to each sidewall and a substantially 1.6 inch radius along points adjacent to each fluted web.
11. (Currently Amended) A combination as set forth in claim 9, wherein the inwardly fluted web provides access to an underside of a ~~and the~~ protruding rim of the lid for facilitating removal of the lid from the container.
12. (Currently Amended) A combination as set forth in claim 11, wherein the upper edge of the container comprises an outwardly facing rim ~~ridge~~ for securing the lid to the container.
13. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 1 having a nonflared stepped section at an upper end of the sidewalls with the nonflared stepped section defined at least in part by lines substantially parallel to a center longitudinal axis of the container.
14. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 13 wherein the sidewalls are outwardly bowed.
15. (Previously Presented) A nestable container as set forth in claim 1 having a stepped section contiguous with the sidewalls and defined by lines substantially parallel to a center axis of the container.
16. (Original) A nestable container as set forth in claim 14 wherein said stepped section defines a continuous wall about the top of the container and a plurality of ribs extending

upwardly on the inner surface of said continuous wall to provide an interfering fit that limits nesting of another like container.

17. (Original) A nestable container having a frusto conic shaped sidewall with inwardly fluted webs defining thumb and finger gripping area for hand engagement with the container.

18. (Previously Presented) An array of containers, comprising:
a plurality of stacks of containers with the containers within each stack nested together;
each of the containers having open ends of the same dimensions to accommodate stacking but with one group of containers having a depth different from a second group of containers, whereby the volume in the containers of one group is greater than the volume of containers in the second group, one group comprising one stack and the second group comprising a second stack; and
means for commonly supporting the stacks in adjacent relation.

19. (Currently Amended) An array of containers as set forth in claim 18, in combination with a stack of lids, the lids adapted to fit ~~both stacks of containers~~ of both groups.

20. (Currently Amended) An array of containers as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a third stack of containers, in combination with a stack of lids, the lids adapted to fit ~~all three stacks of containers~~ of all three stacks.

21. (Previously Presented) An array of containers as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first stack of containers is substantially parallel to the second stack of containers.

22. (Previously Presented) A combination as set forth in claim 19, further comprising means for commonly supporting the stacks of containers and lids in adjacent relation.

23. (Previously Presented) A combination as set forth in claim 22, wherein the stack of lids is substantially perpendicular to the stacks of containers.

24. (Currently Amended) An array of containers, comprising:
a plurality of stacks of containers with the containers within each stack nested together;
each of the containers having open ends of the same dimensions to accommodate stacking but with at least some of the containers in one group of containers [[each]] having a different volume from at least some of the containers in a second group of containers whereby the volume of at least some of the containers of one group is greater than the volume of at least some of the containers of the second group, one group at least partially arranged in one stack and the second group at least partially arranged in the second stack; and
a common support for positioning the plurality of ~~means for commonly supporting the~~
stacks in adjacent relation.

25. (Previously Presented) An array of containers as set forth in claim 24, wherein all of the containers in one group of containers each have a different volume from all of the containers in the second group of containers.

26. (New) An array of containers as set forth in claim 24, wherein the common support comprises a base that is portable with the plurality of stacks, and is configured to secure the stacks initially in a fixed relation to one another.

27. A storage system for multiple stacks of containers comprising;
a base;
a stackholder assembly; and
means for interengaging the base and the stackholder assembly for movement of the stackholder assembly to and from a position in vertical alignment with the base;
said stackholder assembly having a plurality of upwardly extending mandrils, shaped and sized to removably secure a container with its open end downwardly faced.

28. (New) A storage system for multiple stacks of containers as set forth in claim 27, wherein the stackholder assembly further comprises at least one pocket, shaped and sized to hold a plurality of common lids sized to fit with the containers.

29. (New) An array of containers and lids, comprising:
a plurality of stacks of containers with the containers within each stack nested together;
each of the containers having open ends of the same dimensions to accommodate stacking but with at least some of the containers in one group of containers having a different volume from at least some of the containers in a second group of containers whereby the volume of at least some of the containers of one group is greater than the volume of at least some of the containers of the second group, one group at least partially arranged in one stack and the second group at least partially arranged in the second stack;
a stack of lids sized to fit containers of both groups; and
a stackholder assembly for commonly supporting the stacks of lids and containers in adjacent relation.

30. (New) A nestable container as set forth in claim 17, wherein a pair of inwardly fluted webs are arranged diametrically opposite one another.

31. (New) A nestable container as set forth in claim 30, wherein the container has a bottom connecting the sidewall, and a top lip, with the inwardly fluted webs extending downwardly from the lip toward the bottom.

32. (New) A nested container as set forth in claim 31, wherein the lip extends over the upper end of the fluted webs.

33. (New) A nested container as set forth in claim 32, wherein the frusto conic sidewall has segments essentially defining four sidewalls.

34. (New) A nested container as set forth in claim 33, having four inwardly fluted webs orthogonally arranged to one another.

35. (New) A nested container having a frusto conic shaped sidewall, a plurality of inwardly fluted webs extending parallel to one another between ends of said sidewall and

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- 7 -

Art Unit: 3728

terminating at one end of the open end of the container, with a peripheral lip at the open end extending outwardly.